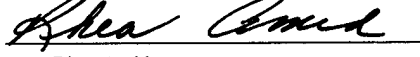


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Rhea Amid

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Lingxun DUAN

U.S. National Phase Patent Application Based On
PCT/US99/29213

Serial No.: To be assigned

Filing Date: Herewith

For: PRODUCTION OF RECOMBINANT
MONELLIN USING
METHYLOTROPHIC YEAST
EXPRESSION SYSTEM

Examiner: To be assigned

Group Art Unit: To be assigned

#2/a
Yuta
3/4/03

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-captioned application, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph: